

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5002
By Purcell

A RESOLUTION to commemorate *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* as Tennessee's Bicentennial School Song.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause at the time of the celebration of our Bicentennial to specially recognize an outstanding musical composition that will inspire pride and patriotism in Tennesseans for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* or *The Song Inside of Me* by Shirley McRae, Teree Campbelle-McCormick and Margaret Campbelle-duGard made its auspicious premiere when 250 students from seven Nashville schools sang this beautiful song at the 50th annual convention of the Tennessee Music Education Association, which commissioned the piece; and

WHEREAS, *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* proved to be so popular that Buena Vista/Jones Paideia Magnet School students petitioned this General Assembly to designate the composition as the official Bicentennial school song; and

WHEREAS, the persuasive arguments of these fine young people prevailed, and this Body officially adopted *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* as the Tennessee Bicentennial School Song in the 99th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the music for *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* was composed by Shirley McRae, a University of Memphis music professor, and the lyrics were penned by sisters Teree Campbelle-McCormick, a teacher at W.O. Smith Community Music School who also composed the piano accompaniment to the song, and Margaret Campbell-duGard, a composer and music educator at Nashville's Park Avenue Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee Children's Choir will proudly and expertly perform *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* as part of Tennessee's Bicentennial Celebration on June 1, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the lyrics to *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* are truly inspiring as they radiantly detail the panoramic history and illustrious heritage of the Volunteer State, to wit:

From the mountains come the secrets that the winds take down below
Then the Elders whisper stories that we share from long ago.
Strains of music gather us to a place where we can grow.
And the people share a common ground that now we all call Home.

If we soar over the ocean, if we walk far as the sea
If we travel the whole world over, these stories will be of Tennessee.

Let this song be the hopes of who we are and who we'll be
Let our singing set a place in time to share our memories
Paint our portrait, trace our triumphs and remember the trail of our tears.
Let our voice weave dreams sustaining us to guide us through the years.

If I soar over the ocean, if I walk far as the sea
If I travel the whole world over, my dreams will always be of Tennessee.
Listen well and share the laughter for it tells us who we are
Day to day look to the mountains, ride the wind up to the stars
Feel the glow of those who journey; seek the music that flows through us all
Now we give it back to the people
Listen well and heed the call.

If you soar over the ocean, if you walk far as the sea
If you travel the whole world over, your home will always be in Tennessee.

If we soar over the ocean, if we walk far as the sea
If we travel the whole world over, our home will always be in Tennessee
. in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Tennessee's Bicentennial, we should all take these beautiful lyrics to heart and give thanks for our good fortune in being citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commemorate *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* or *The Song Inside of Me* by Shirley McRae, Teree Campbelle-McCormick and Margaret Campbell-duGard as the Tennessee Bicentennial School Song.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we thank the composers of *My Home Will Always Be In Tennessee* for their exemplary contribution to Tennessee's distinguished musical heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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